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New "Civil Aviation Set Up in Romania

As of 1 November, direction of all Romanian civil aviation activities was transferred from the Ministry of Transport to the Ministry of Armed Forces. Colonel Dumitru Balaur, who has headed TAROM since the mid-1960's is expected to take over the new civil air organization (Civil Aviation Command--TAROM). Romanian civil aviation has been under the wing of the military since

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the mid-1960's and TAROM's pilots are well trained in use of military aircraft. The current move drops the flimsy facade of civilian control which existed and formalizes what, in fact, has been the case all along.

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Terrorists on Trial in Zagreb

The regime may be on the verge of making good its oft repeated, but as yet unsubstantiated, claims of ties between anti-Tito Croatian emigre terrorists and persons inside Croatia. The 7 November Zagreb press disclosed that at least six terrorists are on trial for plotting to lead an armed revolt in Croatia. The newspaper accounts carry details of the ties of the defendants to radical emigre leaders such as Branko Jelic and Wilhem Cecelj in West Germany and Austria respectively.

The accused are members of a heretofore unknown group called "Skupina Zagreb" which Yugoslav authorities have apparently had under surveillance for some time. The defendants may have been involved in or swept up in the wake of the emigre attack in Bosnia-Hercegovina last summer.

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Tito Ready for Protracted Purge

During a 7 November speech in Macedonia, Tito said that he wants his current drive for recentralizing the party to be completed by next fall when the new constitution is due to come into effect. This is the first time he has given any hint of a completion date for the purges and party reforms. This protracted timeframe may explain the surprising lack of purges at the medium and lower levels. Almost a month has passed since Tito first attacked the Serb party leadership and so far only highly visible top-rung officials have been sacked.

Tito may indeed plan to drag out the purges so that he and his supporters in the LCY executive bureau can better control events. A year long campaign would also be more effective in carrying out some of the sweeping social, legal and economic changes that he has outlined for Yugoslavia. There are, of course, risks in such a course. Nerves are already on the raw edge in many places and the prospective purge victims themselves may wish for a quicker denouement. Strain between respect for Tito and doubts that he is doing the right thing is evident in many comments from Yugoslav officials. There are even some who have given private evidence that they have turned against him, and when a South Slav begins to nurse a grudge, vengeance dominates reason.

Furthermore, Tito is giving evidence of sensitivity to the unsettling effects of his earlier rhetorical forays into the "illegal wealth" problem. At a factory meeting in Kumanovo yesterday, Tito tried to reassure those who earn villas and other luxuries "with their own hands" that their prize possessions will not be confiscated. Tito's reassurances may not be enough. He has opened up a Pandora's box of insecurity and distrust which will not easily be closed again.

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